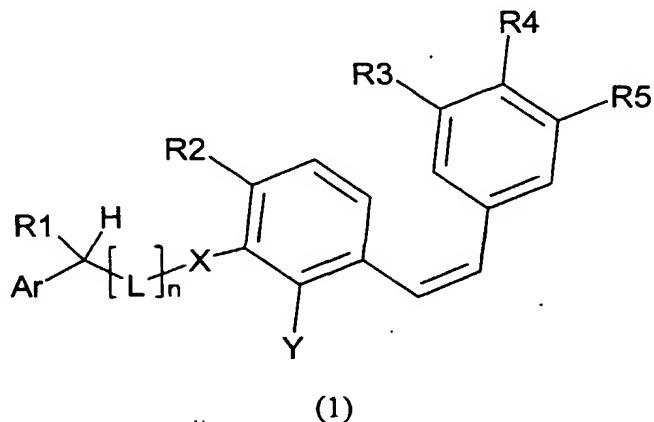


CLAIMS

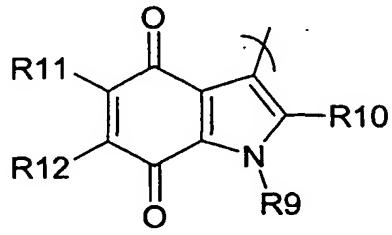
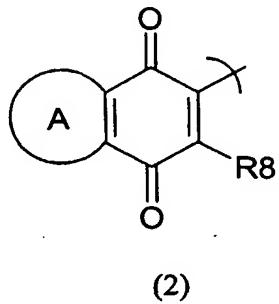
1. A compound of formula (1), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof:

5



wherein:

10 - Ar is a substituted heteroaryl group bearing at least one nitro or azido group or is a group of formula (2) or (3);



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- R₁ is hydrogen, optionally substituted alkyl, optionally substituted aryl or optionally substituted heteroaryl;

- R₂ is alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkoxy or halo;

- R₃, R₄ and R₅ are each independently alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkoxy or halo with - the proviso that at least two of R₃, R₄ or R₅ are alkoxy;

- L is -OC(O)- or -OP(O)(OR₆)-;

- n is 0 or 1;

20

- X is O, S or NR₇;
- Y is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkoxy, halo, hydroxy or dihydrogenphosphate;
- R₆ is H or alkyl;
- 5 - R₇ is H or alkyl;
- R₈ is hydrogen, alkoxy or dialkylaminoalkyl;
- R₉ is optionally substituted alkyl;
- R₁₀ is hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy or dialkylaminoalkyl;
- 10 R₁₁ and R₁₂ are independently hydrogen, alkyl, alkoxy, thioalkoxy, amino, alkylamino, dialkylamino, morpholino, alkylmorpholino, piperidino, alkylpiperidino, piperazino, alkylpiperazino or 1-aziridinyl; and
- A, together with the carbon atoms to which it is fused, is an optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl ring.

15 2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the alkyl groups in the R₁₋₇ and R₉₋₁₂ substituents are unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 unsubstituted substituents chosen from halogen, amino, mono(C₁-C₄ alkyl)amino, di(C₁-C₄ alkyl)amino, hydroxy, C₁-C₄ alkoxy and C₁-C₄ alkylthio substituents.

20 3. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein the aryl and heteroaryl groups in the Ar, A and R₁ substituents are unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 unsubstituted substituents selected from halogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy, amino, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy and C₁-C₄ haloalkoxy.

25 4. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein R₁ is hydrogen, unsubstituted C₁-C₆ alkyl, a phenyl group which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 unsubstituted substituents selected from halogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy, amino, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy and C₁-C₄ haloalkoxy or a heteroaryl group which is unsubstituted or substituted with 1, 2 or 3 unsubstituted substituents selected from halogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy, amino, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl,

30 C₁-C₄ alkoxy and C₁-C₄ haloalkoxy substituents.

5. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein R₁ is hydrogen or unsubstituted C₁-C₂ alkyl.

6. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein R₂ is 5 unsubstituted C₁-C₆ alkyl, unsubstituted C₁-C₄ alkoxy, unsubstituted thio(C₁-C₄ alkoxy) or a halo group.

7. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein R₂ is an 10 unsubstituted C₁-C₂ alkoxy group.

8. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein R₃, R₄ and 15 R₅ are the same or different and each represent unsubstituted C₁-C₆ alkyl, unsubstituted C₁-C₄ alkoxy, unsubstituted thio(C₁-C₄ alkoxy) or a halo group provided that at least two of R₃, R₄ and R₅ are alkoxy.

9. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein R₃, R₄ and 20 R₅ are the same or different and each represent unsubstituted C₁-C₂ alkoxy.

10. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein X is O, S 25 or NR₇, wherein R₇ is hydrogen or unsubstituted C₁-C₆ alkyl.

11. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein X is O, S or NH.

25 12. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein L is -OC(O)- or -OP(O)(OR₆)-, wherein R₆ is hydrogen or unsubstituted C₁-C₆ alkyl.

13. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein L is 30 -OC(O)-.

14. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 11, wherein n is 0.

15. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein Y is selected from hydrogen, unsubstituted C₁-C₆ alkyl, unsubstituted C₁-C₄ alkoxy, unsubstituted thio(C₁-C₄ alkoxy), halo, hydroxy and dihydrogenphosphate substituents.

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16. A compound according to any one of the previous claims wherein Y is hydrogen.

17. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein Ar is a substituted aryl or 5 to 10 membered heteroaryl group which carries one substituent selected from a nitro or azido group and 0, 1 or 2 further unsubstituted substituents chosen from halogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, hydroxy, amino, C₁-C₄ haloalkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy and C₁-C₄ haloalkoxy substituents.

15 18. A compound according to any one of the previous claims, wherein Ar is an unsubstituted nitrophenyl, unsubstituted nitroimidazole, unsubstituted nitrothiophene or unsubstituted nitrofuranyl group.

19. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 16, wherein Ar is a group of 20 formula (3), wherein R₉ is an unsubstituted C₁-C₆ alkyl group.

20. A compound according to any one of claims 19, wherein R₉ is an unsubstituted C₁-C₂ alkyl group.

25 21. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 16 and 19 to 20, wherein R₁₀ is selected from hydrogen, unsubstituted C₁-C₆ alkyl, unsubstituted C₁-C₄ alkoxy and unsubstituted di(C₁-C₆ alkyl)amino(C₁-C₆ alkyl) substituents.

22. A compound according to claim 21, wherein R₁₀ is an unsubstituted C₁-C₂ 30 alkyl group.

23. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 16 and 19 to 22, wherein

R₁₁ and R₁₂ are the same or different and each represent an unsubstituted substituent selected from hydrogen, C₁-C₆ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, thio(C₁-C₄ alkoxy), amino, (C₁-C₆ alkyl)amino, di(C₁-C₆ alkyl)amino, morpholino, (C₁-C₆ alkyl)morpholino, piperidino, (C₁-C₆ alkyl)piperidino, piperazino, (C₁-C₆ alkyl)piperazino and 1-aziridinyl substituents.

24. A compound according to claim 23, wherein R₁₁ and R₁₂ are the same or different and each represent a substituent selected from hydrogen, unsubstituted C₁-C₂ alkoxy and unsubstituted (C₁-C₂ alkyl)piperidino substituents.

10

25. A compound according to any one of the previous claims which is 1-(4-methoxy-3-(5-nitrothien-2-yl)methoxy)phenyl-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxy)phenyl-Z-ethene, 1-(4-Methoxy-3-(1-(5-nitrothien-2-yl)ethoxy))phenyl-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxy)phenyl-Z-ethene, 1-(4-Methoxy-3-(5-nitrothien-2-yl)methoxycarbonyloxy)phenyl-2-(3,4,5-trimethoxy)phenyl-Z-ethene, 5-Methoxy-3-((3,4,4',5-tetramethoxy-(Z)-stilbene-3'-yl)oxy)methyl-1,2-dimethylindole-4,7-dione or 3-((3,4,4',5-Tetramethoxy-(Z)-stilbene-3'-yl)oxy)methyl-1,2-dimethyl-5-(4-methylpiperazin-1-yl)indole-4,7-dione, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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26. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of the previous claims, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

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27. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 25, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for use in the treatment of the human or animal body.

28. Use of a compound as defined according to any one of claims 1 to 25, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for the prevention or treatment of a proliferative disorder.

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29. Use according to claim 28, wherein the proliferative disorder is cancer, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic lesions, diabetic retinopathy or wet age-related macular degeneration.

5 30. Use according to claim 28 or 29, wherein the proliferative disorder is a hypoxic disorder.

31. Use according to any one of claims 28 to 30, wherein the medicament is for use in the prevention or treatment of a solid tumour or leukaemia.

10 32. A method of ameliorating or reducing the incidence of a proliferative disorder as defined according to any one of claims 28 to 31 in a patient, which method comprises administering to said patient an effective amount of a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 25, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15 33. A method according to claim 32, which method comprises administering to said patient an effective amount of:

(a) a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 25, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

20 (b) a reductase, an anti-body reductase conjugate, a macromolecule-reductase conjugate or DNA encoding a reductase gene.

34. A product containing:

(a) a compound as defined in any one of claims 1 to 25, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

25 (b) a reductase, an anti-body reductase conjugate, a macromolecule-reductase conjugate or DNA encoding a reductase gene for the simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment of a proliferative disorder as defined in any one of claims 28 to 31.